

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Bomb Shelters in Plovdiv

DATE DISTR. 18 March 1959

NO. PAGES

REQUIREMENT NO.

REFERENCES

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. there are two types of bomb shelters in Bulgaria. The first is the standard cellar type situated in the basements of all large buildings under construction. The second type are tunnels built into the rocky hillsides with a large part of the town situated around them. The construction of these shelters was begun in 1941 and continued until 9 September 1944; construction was resumed in 1950, and in 1957, the shelters were cleaned and put in order when their maintenance was assigned to the ZHILFOND enterprises. (See attached Plan of Plovdiv.) 1 - May 1959
2. The shelter designated by No. 1 on the attached Plan, located on the south side of Vasil Kolarov (Sakhat) Hill, was constructed during 1957 and the first half of 1958; it has two entrances on Knyazh Dondukov Korsakov Street. During the construction of this shelter, a high board fence surrounded the area, and though later reduced in size, observers could see only the doors of the entrances. At that time, a platoon of the MVR troops guarded (and probably continue to guard) the shelter and the surrounding hillside. It was believed that the staff of the Second Army and the Okrug committee of the BCP would use this shelter in case of war.
3. The shelter designated by No. 2 is situated on the east slope of Bunardzhika Hill. This shelter was built by Communist workers for the sole use of Communist leaders. It is believed to be the largest shelter in Plovdiv and is furnished with all necessities including air-conditioning and running water; the exit is near a restaurant. During the crisis in the Middle East (July 1958), five or six barrels and ten to twelve boxes were unloaded from trucks and put in the shelter.
4. Number 3 was originally planned to be the tunnel of Georgi Dimitrov Avenue, leading from the freight station to the location of the Plovdiv Fair. However, the construction of this shelter was halted and it is now being used for storing the cheese and other milk products of Plovdiv District Cooperative Union. This tunnel could easily be converted into a large shelter.

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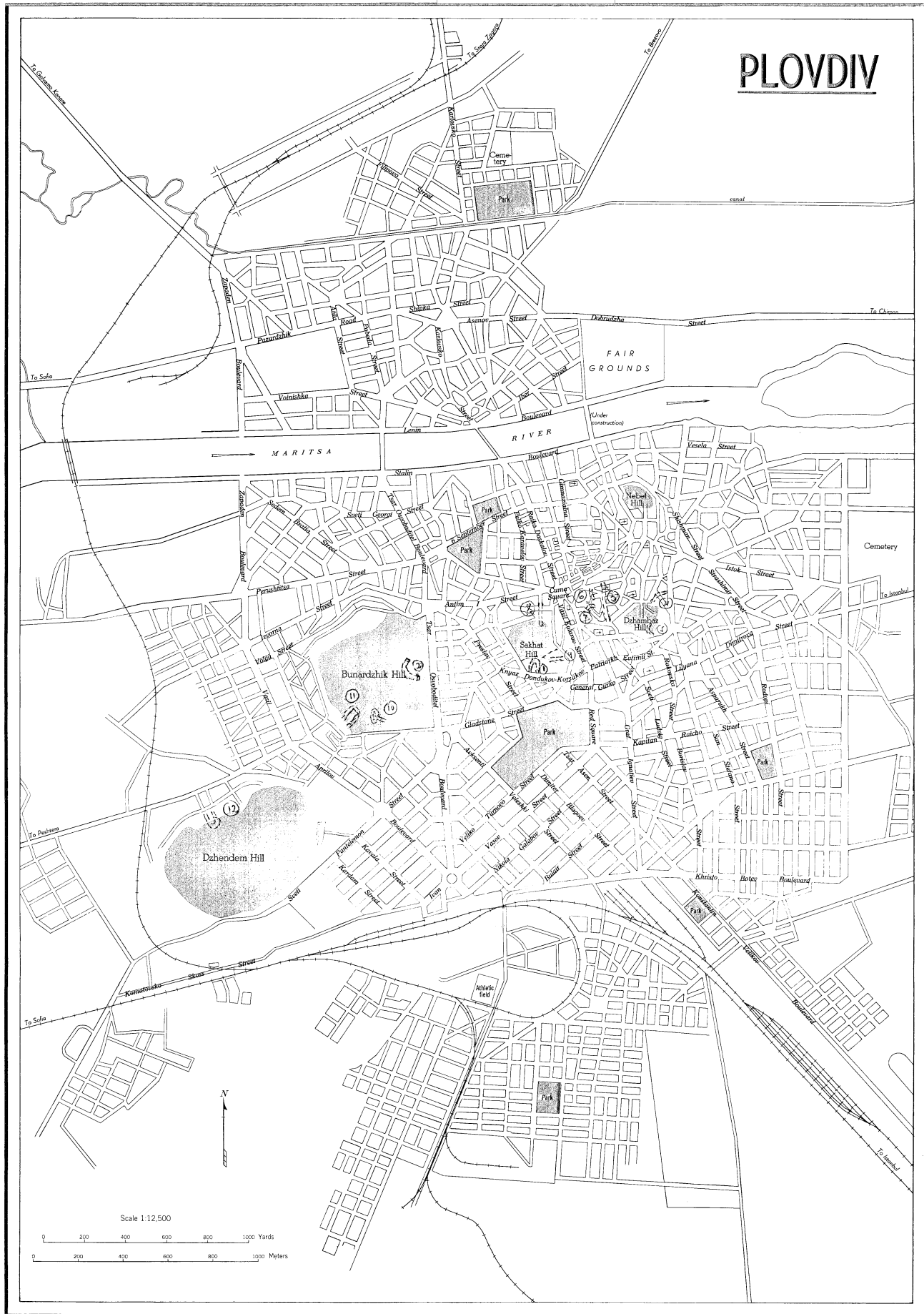
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5. Numbers 4 through 12 are ordinary tunnels in the rocky hillside. Most are 30 to 40 meters long. $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 meters high, and 4 to 6 meters wide. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] they were not in good order, lacking doors and benches. 25X1
During 1957 and the first half of 1958, after ZHILFOND had been given charge of the maintenance, all the shelters were supplied with doors and benches. He visited No. 7 (see sketch No. 2) which had been cleaned, supplied with benches, kerosine lamps, candles, etc. The doors of all the tunnels consisted of steel veneer over wooden beams; the floors were covered with sand. (See sketch No. 3.)
6. These shelters would not accommodate many people and were probably designed only for the use of high authorities and students. Employees of ZHILFOND have one key for each shelter; the second is retained in the office of the "39th Department."
7. [redacted] 25X1
- a. Map of Plovdiv showing the location of the above named bomb shelters.
 - b. Sketch of shelter No. 7 showing placement of door and benches with approximate area dimensions.
 - c. Sketch of shelter door giving two views and approximate dimensions.

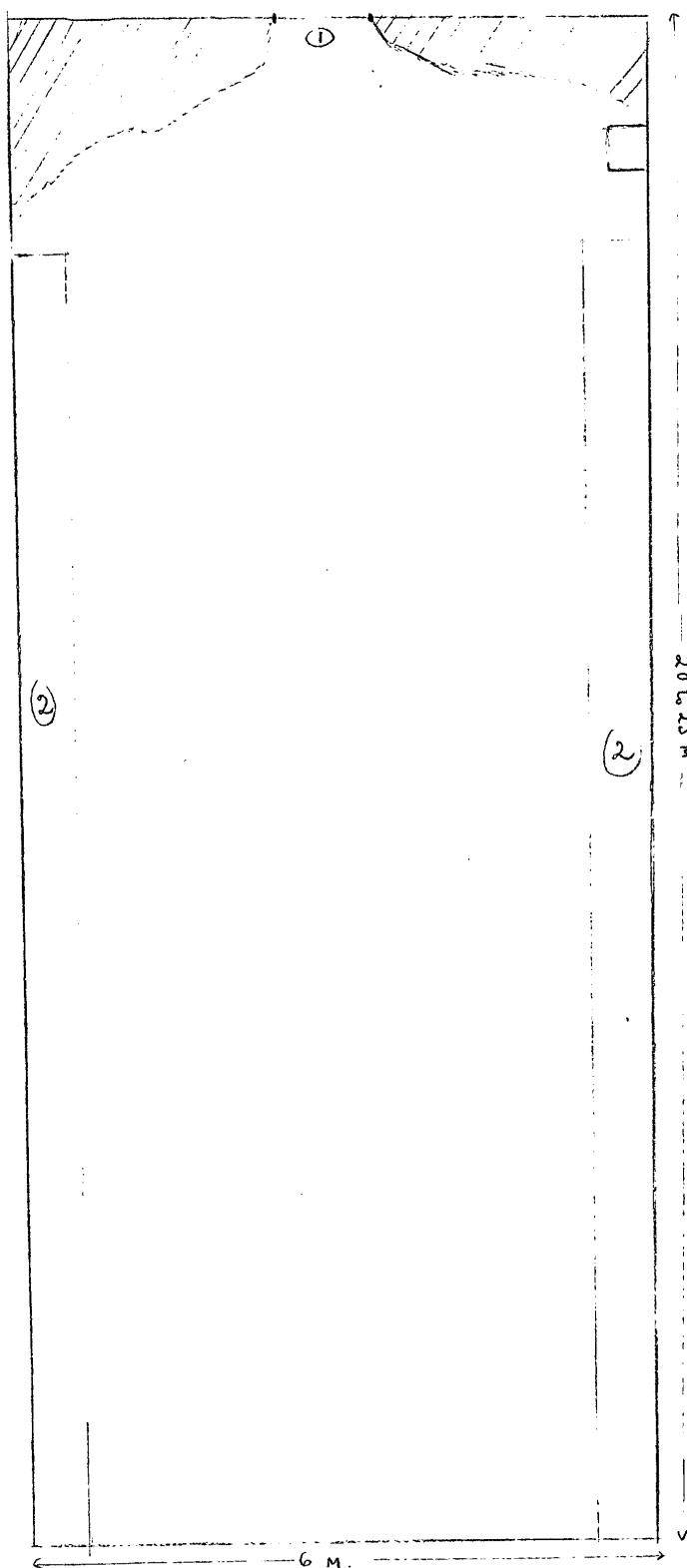
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of shelter (tunnel) shown under # 7



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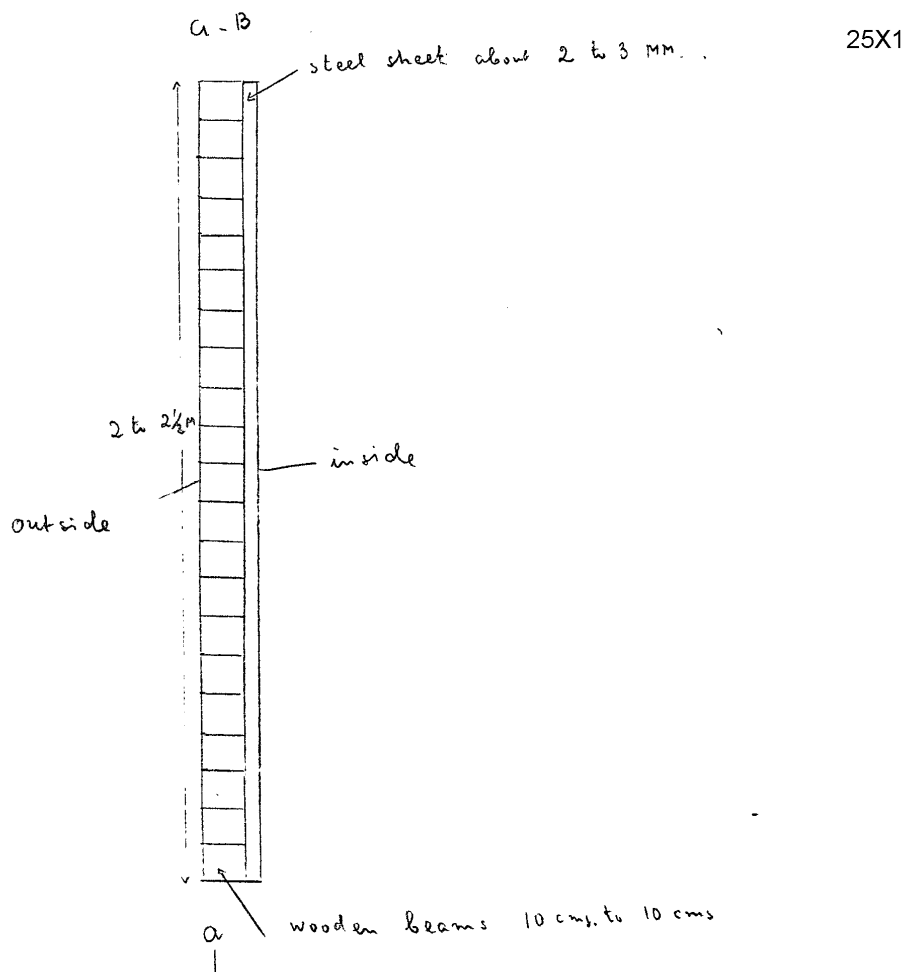
Legend

- ① Door (entrance)
- ② Benches.

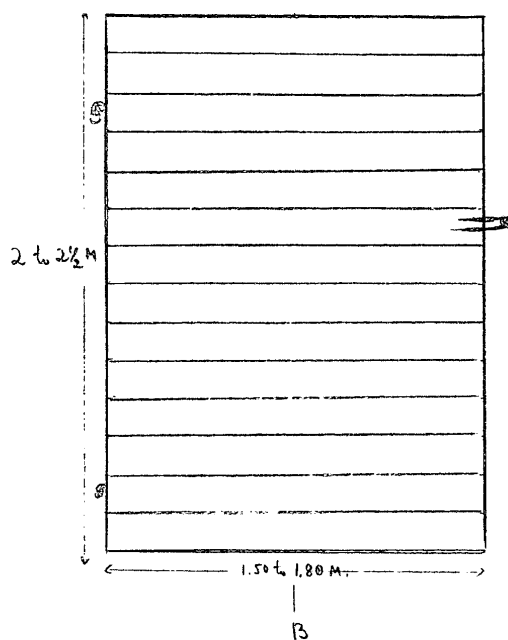
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SKETCH #3

of the shelter's door



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ATTACHMENT NO. C

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